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## Vision Cashiers August activity update

1 message

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# VISION CASHIERS

## ***“Improving Tomorrow...Today”***

### **August 2019 update**

Our activity seems to increase daily so please help us by volunteering in one of our initiatives or support us in other ways. Any financial support is tax deductible because Vision Cashiers is a public charity. We are all volunteers working to make Cashiers better. Feel free to forward our updates and information about our initiatives to others by looking at our website, [www.visioncashiers.com](http://www.visioncashiers.com).

Here is a current update of activity:

- **Education task force-** Dr. Joy Clark, leader- 36 participants
  - Two separate **flags were designed** and will be presented to the two pre-schools, the Cashiers Valley Pre School and the Hampton Pre School and Early Learning Center.
  - The Cashiers Chamber of Commerce is hanging our **Welcome Back to School banner** at the Crossroads for the next 2 weeks. We have created a great collaboration between the schools where they are sharing ideas.
  - Paul Robshaw and Joy were interviewed for the **grant** we applied for from the **Wade Hampton Donor Advised Fund**. Hopefully, we will hear something positive in the next few weeks.

- Diane Tuttle and Jill Keith have contacted the manager at Ingle's and have set Saturdays in September for **Tools for Schools sign up**. However, you can **complete your annual sign up on line by going to Ingle's Tools for Schools website**. A percentage of your purchases go to your designated school for purchases made from now until next June 2nd
- Joy Clark has met with **Dr. Tracie Metz, the new Early College principal at Blue Ridge School and with Teri Walawender to discuss their needs and concerns**. After school starts back – this week!!! – she will get with them again. She also plans **to meet with the principal at Summit Charter asap**.
- **A combined Leadership Conference for high school students at Blue Ridge and Summit** has been discussed by some members of the Task Force. We are exploring that possibility and look forward to sharing the ideas with the high school principals. If anyone would like to work on this initiative, let Joy Clark know.
- Mary Jo Mayfield and Joy Clark plan to meet with Dr. Metz in the next few weeks to make plans for the **Junior Achievement program for Juniors at Blue Ridge Early College**.
- The Task Force plans to support the **Financial Aid evening at Blue Ridge Early College** and will be contacting Dr. Metz and the Cashiers Area Scholarship Alliance.
- **Health/Wellness-** Dr. Walter Clark, leader- now 70 participants (31 are physicians)
  - **Focused Work group status:**
    - **Blue Zones-** A Blue Zones Community® is an area in which citizens, schools, employers, restaurants, grocery stores, and community leaders have come together to optimize residents' longevity and well-being. ... By impacting environment, policy, and social networks, Blue Zones makes healthy choices easier. To learn more go to <https://www.bluezonesproject.com/> We had a follow up presentation from them and the first phase of doing this is a full analysis of the market place. To narrow the scope and cost we are looking at Cashiers (including Sapphire and Glenville), Highlands and Franklin. The cost will be \$50,000 and Sallie Taylor's group is assessing it and determining the source of the funds.
    - **Physician and nurse recruiting-** We have a significant urgent need in Cashiers because the only doctor at the Cashiers clinic is retiring September 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Scott Strohecker is leading this initiative and held a meeting Tuesday with 11 volunteers. 7 are physicians and some have deep experience in recruiting. They built a plan to recruit candidates for the Cashiers clinic and HCA has agreed to work with us.
    - **Foundation Health Park-** this group presented a plan and proposal to HCA on July 15<sup>th</sup> that involves building a 10-12,000 square foot clinic on the foundation property between 64 and 107. We have a builder and the probable capital and other health care tenants wanting to lease space, but the financial success depends on a commitment from HCA. We expect to hear from them soon.
    - **Virtual Care (Tel-A-Doc)** this group is creating a plan to provide virtual contact to physicians for families throughout the county. It would be a massive benefit to families and increase the viability of the hospital while reducing unnecessary emergency room visits. We expect to finalize the service in the next month.

- **Community Housing-** John Franklin, leader assisted by Linda Bengé & Turner Inscoe- 29 participants
  - Working to identify a site to build **duplexes** for full time workers (teachers, nurses, full time managers). We made an offer on a property in Glenville but the seller had unrealistic expectations. If you know a site of about 25 acres or a donor who would give it, please email us.
  - Our concept of having employers guarantee leases and expenses has had great acceptance. With this we can create an economic model that attracts investors looking for an 8% return. More than 75 units have been committed.
- **Workforce Development-** Susan San Souci leader, 17 participants
  - **Alliance with Western Carolina-** we have developed our alliance with the university. It is creating classes in Hospitality, Construction and Interior Design and possibly golf course management in time for the fall semester.
  - **Alliance with Southwestern Community College-** working to develop it
  - We created an alliance with the Chamber of Commerce and 6 area high schools as far as Franklin to **create education sessions** informing the students of the work opportunities in Cashiers.
- **Technology-** Brian Grieg, Jim Allen & Danny Bottoms and Stote Ellsworth along with 17 participants
  - **Broadband fiber to the home-** We have a substantial provider interested in doing this in Cashiers but developing a financial model is moving slowly. We don't expect progress on this until October.
  - We committed to create a **WIFI district** for the Cashiers commercial area. We have a substantial provider who has been in business for 20 years and has 8,000 customers. We are finalizing a bid and installation with them and could have it operational in the next 30-60 days.
- **Natural Resources-** Maggie Carton, leader, 32 participants
  - The board of directors of Vision Cashiers voted to assume liability and maintenance of the current "**Ramble**" **pathway system** throughout Cashiers. This is a major commitment that reassures owners that they won't have to do it. We are now approaching property owners to obtain permission to survey their property and to give an easement for the pathway. We are committed to taking over the "**Ramble**", **upgrading and expanding it**, making Cashiers into a pedestrian friendly walkable community.
  - We have created committed groups to take on **periodic clean-up of the main highways in Cashiers**. Notice the difference.

- **Crime Prevention-** Jim Sacha, leader, 13 participants

- We sent all **5 key messages** of crime prevention over 6 months to the community. This campaign was designed to get property owners to take responsibility for the prevention of crime. The hardest part is acting on the suggestions so please do so.

- **Pedestrian Safety** - Don Jehle- 36 participants

- Focused on the first phase of **sidewalks**. Survey and engineering is complete. The county agreed to assume liability and maintenance.
- Most of the **owners are agreeing to pay**. We anticipate starting construction in the next 30-60 days.
- Vision Cashiers is the voluntary project manager.

- A new initiative we created is called the **Cultural Enrichment task force-** Linda Benge, Ann Austin and Susan Bianchi are launching it and their first action is to create a 100 year anniversary celebration next year of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the constitution, **women's right to vote**. If you would like to work with them on this please email me.

We look forward to showing some very concrete results soon.

Sincerely,

*Paul*

*For Vision Cashiers*

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